

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **BISCHOFF PROPOSES A NEW COURT FOR DEARBORN COUNTY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Members of the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee today unanimously endorsed House Bill 1108, legislation authored by State Rep. Robert Bischoff (D-Lawrenceburg) that would provide for an additional superior court for Dearborn County.

Dearborn County is now ranked fifth among Indiana counties for the severity of its need for a new court. The civil docket is currently backlogged up to a year and a half and the criminal docket has increased substantially. The population has doubled in recent years--from approximately 25,000 residents in 1990 to almost 50,000 in 2000--and all indications show that Dearborn County will continue to grow. In order to confront current and future docket problems, it is imperative that a court be established in the near future.

"This is just an overwhelming issue in our county right now," said Bischoff.

Dearborn County has been dealing with a judicial shortage for years. The county has attempted to stave off the backlogging of cases by using special judges and mediators, but the need for a new court is acute.

Dearborn County officials have been planning and putting aside money for the new superior court and they have said that they will do everything possible on their part to ensure that the county receives a new superior court.

"It is important that the Dearborn County court system gets the help it needs in order to clear its dockets of the backlog of cases that have accumulated," said Bischoff. "An orderly court system is one of the benefits that people look for when they consider moving to a new county and this is one thing, I feel, Dearborn County should have."

House Bill 1108 now moves to the floor of the House for further consideration.

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